

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Akihiro OSAKA; Hiroshi SEKIYAMA; Kouichi NOTO;  
and Masaki SUGAWARAApplication No.: Rule 1.53(b) Divisional Appln. of  
Appln. No. 09/544,463, filed 4/7/02

Filed: February 14, 2002

Docket No.: 105913.01

For: SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING METHOD AND SEMICONDUCTOR  
MANUFACTURING APPARATUSINFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTDirector of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

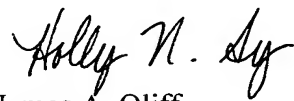
Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of this non-CPA application, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.
- ☒ 2. The references were cited by or submitted to the Office in parent application No. 09/544,463, filed April 7, 2000, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120. Thus, copies of these references are not attached. 37 CFR §1.98(d).

Respectfully submitted,

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